Dallas News 3/4/81

Woman sues U.S. to get JFK photos

A Texas woman who took two photographs of President John F. Kennedy during his assassination in Dallas in 1963 filed suit Tuesday against the federal government in an effort to get the pictures back.

One of her Dallas attorneys said he believes the government is keeping the photographs because they may prove the "grassy knoll" theory that a second gunman participated in the assassination.

The suit was filed by Mary Ann Bortoni, whose last name was Moorman at the time Lee Harvey Oswald was accused of firing his shots from the Texas School Book Depository at the corner of Elm and Houston streets.

Ms. Bortoni could not be reached for comment, but her attorney, Frank Shor, said the photographs were taken with a Polaroid and "may substantiate the grassy knoll theory."

"I think they show a rifle," said Shor, who has not seen the photographs. ?

Ms. Bortoni was on the south side of Elm Street, about 15 feet from the president's limousine, when the fatal shots were fired. She took one of her pictures at the moment a bullet struck the president.

The Warren Commission subpoenaed the photographs in its investigation of the assassination, and later returned them to Ms. Bortoni, Shor said. But the U.S. House Select Committee on Assassinations, which subpoenaed the pictures during its investigation in 1978, never returned them, Shor said.

Since then, Shor said, a special subcommittee working on the assassination has ceased to exist and there is no reason for retaining the photographs.